

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 25, 2006. In this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 20, 21, 28, 30, 36, 37, 38, 44, 45, 49, 51, 53, and 61 are amended and claims 4, 14, 22, 31, 39, 40, 47, 55 and 63 are canceled. Claims 5, 54, 56, 59 and 66 were previously canceled. Claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-30, 32-38, 41-46, 48-53, 57-58, 60-62, 64-65 and 67 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 10, 20, 28, 36, 44, 53 and 61 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 18, 22, 31, 39, 51, 53 and 61 have been objected to due to the informality that "'menorrhagia' should be spelled -- menorrhagia." Claims 4, 14-18, 22, 31, 39, 47, 49-51, 55, 57, 58, 60, 63-65 and 67 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Finally, claims 1-3, 6-13, 19-21, 23-30, 32-38, 41-46, 48 and 52, 53, 61 and 62 have been rejected based on prior art grounds. For the reasons set forth below, these objections and rejections are hereby traversed.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicant has canceled claims 4, 22, 31 and 39, and added the subject matter therein to amended claims 1, 20, 28 and 36, respectively. Claims 1, 18, 20, 28, 36, 51, 53 and 61 have been amended to reflect the proper spelling of "menorrhagia." At least for these reasons, Applicant submits that the claim objections are no longer proper and that the objections should now be withdrawn.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4, 14-18, 22, 31, 39, 47, 49-51, 55, 57, 58 60, 63-65 and 67 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this response thereto, the Applicants have amended the claims as set forth below:

- The subject matter of dependent claim 4 has been added to independent claim 1 and claim 4 has been canceled.

- The subject matter of dependent claim 14 has been added to independent claim 10 and claim 14 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of dependent claim 22 has been added to independent claim 20 and claim 22 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of claim 31 has been added to independent claim 28 and claim 31 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of claim 39 has been added to independent claim 36 and claim 39 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of claim 47 has been added to independent claim 44 and claim 47 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of claim 55 has been added to independent claim 53 and claim 55 has been canceled.
- The subject matter of claim 63 has been added to independent claim 61 and claim 63 has been canceled.

As a result, it is submitted that claims 1, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 28, 36, 44, 49-51, 53, 57-58, 60, 61, 64, 65 and 67 are now in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indication.

As for dependent claims 2-3, 6-9, 11-13, 19, 21, 23-27, 29, 30, 32-35, 37-38, 41-43, 45-46, 48, 52, and 62, Applicant submits that these claims are also now allowable, as they depend from allowable base claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-30, 32-38, 41-46, 48-53, 57-58, 60-62, 64-65 and 67 are now also in condition for allowance.

VI. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Applicant in no way concedes the prior art rejections made in the Official Action. The amendments made herein are made solely in an effort to expedite prosecution and rely on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. The Applicants expressly

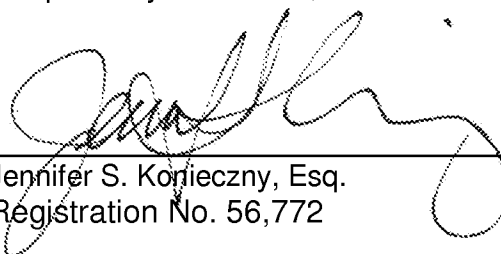
reserve the right to pursue the rejected subject matter in a continuation or divisional application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-21, 23-30, 32-38, 41-46, 48-53, 57-58, 60-62, 64-65 and 67 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of such allowability is hereby requested. If after considering this amendment further issues or questions arise, the Examiner is cordially encouraged to contact the undersigned either via e-mail or by telephone according to the contact information set forth below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-2809.

Respectfully submitted,



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